ADDRESS OF THE DEWAN

TO THE

MYSORE REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

(DASARA SESSION)

22ND OCTOBER 1923

Introductory Remarks

GENTLEMEN,

I esteem it a great privilege to welcome you, by command of His Highness the Maharaja, to the Dasara Session of the Mysore Representative Assembly. This year, the Assembly completes 42 years of its existence, and as important constitutional changes are about to be inaugurated, it is but fitting that the present occasion should be availed of, before I proceed to perform the customary duty of presenting the salient features of the past year's administration, to review its work and its achievements during the past four decades. The present session will mark a distinct and definite stage in the evolution of this Assembly. The tenure of this House which, but for the introduction of constitutional changes announced by me last October, would have continued for another two years, will terminate on the last day of the present session, and it will be immediately re-constituted on a broader basis under the scheme of constitutional developments embracing extended functions and privileges, which I shall have the pleasure, by command of His Highness, to announce on the last day of the session. Let us, therefore, recall to our minds the work that not only this House but also its predecessors during the last 42 years have accomplished, and the manner in which the Assembly has fulfilled the objects with which His Highness the late Maharaja Sri Chamarajendra Wadiyar Bahadur established it in 1881.

Almost every year since its inception, successive Dewans have borne testimony to the influence this Assembly has exercised on the Mysore Administration. At the very second session in 1882, Rangacharlu spoke on this subject as follows :—

"The moderation and practical good sense which characterised your discussions on the occasion of our first meeting last year, and the several measures of useful and necessary reform which resulted from them, induce me to place a high value on the practical views of the people on matters immediately affecting their interests, as contrasted with mere theoretical ideas."

Apart from its influence on the administration, the Assembly has also, by bringing representatives in direct communication with Government, helped to spread correct ideas amongst the people and "roused them to a sense of their true interests and importance." Later, in the early period of Sir K. Sheshadri Iyer's administration, he

referred to the Representative Assembly in the following eloquent terms:—

"The lively interest you evince in the discussion of public questions and your intelligent appreciation of the intentions and policy of Government are a source of strength to His Highness' advisers."

Encouraged by such happy results, the Government improved the constitution of the Assembly in 1890 with a view "to secure a fuller and more satisfactory representation of every important interest in the country." The Dewan in his announcement of that year stated:—

"The moderation, the intelligence and the practical good sense which have characterised your discussions in past years, the material help you have given the Government in the discussion of important questions and the sustained interest you have evinced in public affairs have convinced His Highness the Maharaja that the time has now come when the wealthier and the more enlightened classes may, with safety, be left themselves to choose the members for this Assembly."

In explaining the introduction of high property and educational qualifications, the Dewan observed that the constitution then given could not be regarded as a full popular representation and stated that this could only be effected by making the number of electors fairly proportionate to the population. Sir Sheshadri Iyer said that there were numerous practical difficulties in the way of this reform which "we are *per force* compelled to leave for the future, contenting ourselves for the present with the cautious but highly desirable step we have now taken."

More than three decades have passed since this announcement was made, and during this period, the Assembly has grown in strength and experience and has made the fullest use of the large opportunities granted to it from time to time, specially during the past 21 years of His Highness' prosperous and beneficent administration.

To you, gentlemen, will be the proud privilege of being the immediate predecessors of the new body that is to come into being soon, and the future historian will not fail to give you and your predecessors the well-deserved credit of having paved the way for those liberal and benevolent measures of reform which will shortly be promulgated by His Highness the Maharaja.

Twenty Years' Retrospect

Exactly 20 years ago, Sir P. N. Krishna Murti gave to the Representative Assembly an account of the first year of His Highness' rule.

During the two decades that have elapsed, His Highness has conceived many a benevolent measure in almost every department of administration, as well as in many a new sphere of useful activity, for the improvement of the moral and meterial condition of his people. The resources of the State have been largely developed as a result of the energetic pursuit of a highly progressive policy. The total revenues which in the year 1902-03 amounted to a sum of Rs. 2,07,24,127 have risen in 1922-23 to Rs. 3,32,83,000. The advance of expenditure during this period from Rs. 2,01,09,277 to Rs. 3,29 90,000 also indicates development in all branches of administration. The resources

were augmented by the growth of the Gold Mining Industry, harnessing of the Sivasamudram Falls, extension of Railways, construction of Irrigation works and large consequent increase in the cultivated area. The total outlay on productive works now comes to nearly Rs. 1,100 lakhs and the gross income from such works to Rs. 39 lakhs.

The population of the State which was 5·45 millions in 1903 stands, according to the census of 1921, at 5·98 millions. The agricultural area under occupation which was 6,600,101 acres in 1903 has now increased to 7,903,994 acres. Of these, nearly 80,000 acres are under industrial crops such as cotton, mulberry, coffee and rubber. While there were very few industries organised by local initiative 20 years ago, there are now in addition to Bhadravati Iron Works and Soap and Sandal Oil Factories pioneered by Government agency, Clay and Metal Works, Manganese Works, Paint Works, Cotton and Woollen Mills, Tile Factories and Essential Oils, Asbestos and many other industries, which have been started and successfully worked by private enterprise.

The assets of the State have increased from Rs. 4 crores and 90 lakhs to Rs. 15 crores and 85 lakhs. The expenditure on Public Works and Irrigation shows a substantial advance. The Mysore University was established in 1916. The total expenditure under Education outside the University has increased from Rs. 6·90 lakhs to Rs. 37·80 lakhs, which is 14 per cent of the total revenues of the State. In regard to general education, the number of pupils under education in 1903 was 92,959 which has increased to 304,000. There is now one institution for every 3·43 sq. miles in the State, and for every 680 persons of the population. The percentage of literacy which was 4·8 in 1903 has risen to 8·5 in 1923. New departments such as Economic Conference, Industries and Commerce, Agriculture including Veterinary Aid, Co operation and Public Health, were all established during this period. Substantial advance has been made also in Medical relief and Local Self-Government. Medical institutions have increased from 134 in 1902 to 198 at the end of 1922. At the end of 1922- 3, there were 8 District Boards, 77 Taluk Boards, and 833 Village Panchayets with an income and expenditure of about Rs. 18 lakhs and Rs. 16 lakhs, respectively, which have nearly doubled during this period. The Mysore Bank was established in 1913, Government granting concessions for its development and stability. In 1913-14, the Instrument of Transfer of 1831 was replaced by a new Treaty, and it was during that year that Government received a sum of Rs. 30 lakhs on account of the surplus revenues of the Assigned Tract. During the past twenty years, an additional length of 255 miles of Railway was constructed at a capital cost of Rs. 178·71 lakhs, and a sum of Rs 211 lakhs was spent on the Krishnarajasagara and allied works and Rs. 125·79 lakhs on the development of the Cauvery Power Scheme, the net income from which has increased from Rs. 14·71 lakhs in 1903-04 to Rs. 28·20 lakhs in 1922-23. It was during this period that the Representative Assembly was given enlarged functions and the Legislative Council was established, with the aid of which His Highness' administration passed many important measures affecting the moral and material well-being of his subjects.

The quinquennium from 1st July 1918 to 30th June 1923 may be regarded as a period of exceptional stress and difficulties due to the post-war conditions, the general economic upheavel, and rise in the cost of administration. The various causes of the resulting excess of expenditure over revenue were explained in my Address to you in June 1922, when I also outlined the present financial policy which was devised to stabilise the budget. The period of deficits began in 1918-19. After two years' hard struggle to balance revenue and expenditure, during which drastic retrenchments were effected in all branches of the administration, the last year of the quinquennium which is the year under review at the present session, has produced results which, I hope, will prove gratifying to you as indicating distinctly a turn in the tide of our affairs.

The Late Sir M. Kantaraj Urs

Before I proceed further, I have, with great regret, to refer to the sad and untimely demise of Rajasevadhurina Sir M. Kantaraj Urs, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., retired Dewan of Mysore, after a brief illness on his return from Europe. Sir Kantaraj Urs was not only a most distinguished representative of one of the oldest families in Mysore, but also a close relation of His Highness the Maharaja and the Chief Sirdar of the State. Further, he was a loyal and devoted public servant of long and varied experience gained in the course of a notable career in which he rose to the highest administrative office of the State. The whole of Mysore has been deeply grieved by this sad event and it is my duty on behalf of this House, consisting of the representatives of the people, to offer most respectful and sincere condolences to His Highness the Maharaja, Her Highness the Maharani Vani Vilas Sannidhana, C.I., His Highness' the Yuvaraja, and the other members of His Highness family in their said bereavement.

The Late Viscount Morley

By the recent death of Viscount Morley, India as a whole has lost a staunch friend who was the pioneer of Constitutional Reforms in British India, and we in Mysore, have special reason to be greatful to him for the able advocacy of the Mysore cause which emanated from his pen in the article in the *Fortnightly Review* of September 1866 under the heading "England and the Annexation of Mysore." It bristled with facts and figures and irrefutable arguments and did undoubtedly exercise a great influence in England over the ultimate decision of the question then in dispute.

Catastrophe in Japan

The terrible catastrophe that has overtaken Japan recently and the great distrees that prevails in that country for the relief of which His Excellency the Viceroy has started a Relief Fund in India, have evoked world-wide sympathy. You may have already learnt that His Highness the Maharaja has been pleased to give a sum of Rs. 5,000 to the Viceroy's Relief Fund. Japan has more than one friendly association with the State of Mysore. When His Highness the Yuvaraja visited that country, he was given a most cordial reception by the Royal House of Japan, the nobility as well as the people at large. I may also recall

to your memory, the reception that was accorded to two Dewans of Mysore, namely, Sir M. Visvesvaraya and Sir M. Kantaraj Urs in the years 1919 and 1916. Mysore students who have from time to time been deputed to Japan, as well as the members of the Merchants' Deputation who went there in the year 1916-17, also received every kindness and consideration at the hands of the Japanese people. Apart from these associations, general considerations of humanity demand that we should express our warm sympathy with Japan in her distress.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

It is now my pleasing duty to give you in brief an account of the past year's administration. In doing so, I shall depart from the practice followed in some years in the past, of separating the material to be placed before you into two Parts. I shall endeavour to-day to give a connected summary of the past year's administration without going too much into details which will appear latter in the State Administration Report.

His Highness' Tours

His Highness the Maharaja toured in the Hassan District in the middle of September 1922 and in the Kadur and Hassan Districts in January and June 1923. His Highness has commanded that the representations made to him in the course of the tours should receive prompt and sympathetic consideration, and action is being taken accordingly. His Highness also paid an informal visit to the Bhadravati Works soon after the lighting of the Blast Furnance in January last and made a detailed inspection of the works.

Dewan's Tours

I undertook during the year two extensive tours, one in August 1922 and the other in January 1923, the first covering the three districts of Kolar, Tumkur and Chitaldrug and the second, the Malnad portion of the State in the Shimoga, Hassan and Kadur Districts. The notes of inspection relating to the first tour were issued on 2nd January 1923, and recently, Government have reviewed the progress that has been made in the several departments in carrying out the various orders and instructions issued as a result of the tour. In regard to the orders based on the second tour notes issued last July it is not yet time to review the progress made. During these tours, I inspected 21 Taluk offices, 9 Revenue Sub-Division offices, and all the District offices, 5 Executive Engineers' offices, 4 Public Works Sub-Division offices, a large number of important irrigation works and many road works and 74 educational institutions. I also held conferences with all the District officers in each of the districts visited, reviewing all pending questions and examining the major and minor wants of each district. Local Self-Government questions were gone into in general, all the needs and grievances of the people in the districts were carefully examined with reference to the past policy of Government and definite instructions were issued to facilitate the early disposal of matters—both large and small—which were then awaiting the orders of Government. Further, as a result of enquiries made on

the spot, the several branches of District administration have come under careful scrutiny, and the actual working of various schemes undertaken for the moral and material progress of the people has been minutely examined; and Government are now actively considering how best to remove defects and increase departmental efficiency.

Cauvery Arbitration Negotiations

You will be interested to know that we commenced informal negotiations three years ago with the Madras Government in regard to the Cauvery Arbitration dispute, with a view to settle it in a friendly way, and I am glad to be able to announce that a final settlement satisfactory to both parties is now in sight.

Educational Conference

With a view to take stock of the present situation and discuss the various complicated problems relating to educational progress in Mysore, I held in September 1922, a conference of the officers of the Educational Department and certain non-official gentlemen interested in Education, in which important questions embracing almost the whole field of educational activities were reviewed and discussed. Action on most of the resolutions passed at this conference has already been taken.

Mahomedan Educational Conference

A conference of Mahomedan gentlemen and departmental officers was also convened by me in April last, which was followed up by subsequent meetings presided over by the Inspector-General of Education, at which important questions relating to Mahomedan education were examined. The resolutions of this conference also are now engaging the attention of Government and of the Department

Local Self-Government Conference

In connection with the proposed Constitutional Reforms of which the department of local self-Government must necessarily be a part, I opened a Local Self-Government Conference, presided over by the First Member of Council last April. Seventy-two representatives from all municipalities and other local bodies attended the conference and took an active part in the discussions. The resolutions of the conference are now under the consideration of Government. An order has recently been passed posting a special officer to deal with the subject with a view to expedite matters.

Constitutional Developments

In accordance with the promise made in my speech before the Legislative Council on the 10th April 1922. an announcement was made by me, by command of His Highness the Maharaja, at the last Dasara Session indicating the lines on which the constitutional assemblies of the State were to be further evolved and their scope extended. The committee appointed to go into the details and submit their recommendations commenced their sittings on the 23rd October 1922 and submitted their report in last March. In Publishing the report inApril, Government invited public bodies and others to submit their

representations within a period of two months which was extended later on by another month. The committee's report was considered at three conferences, at Tumkur, Mysore and Bangalore and representations were received from 15 public bodies and about 16 private individuals. The Report was also discussed at the last Birthday Session of the representative Assembly informally. I received a Mahomedan deputation on the subject of Moslem representation and also a deputation of European Planters on the subject of the representation of their special interests, besides a deputation from the Kolar Gold Fields Mining Board. The report has been dealt with in the course of the past few months by Government in all its details and an announcement of their decision on the subject may be expected at the end of this session.

Larger Questions

A few of the larger questions connected with the administration, specially those relating to Mysore's claim to the surplus revenues of the Assigned Tract of the Civil and Military Station, the re-organization of the Mysore Military Forces, further extensions to the Mysore Railway system, re-constitution of the Indian Institute of Science, utilisation of the Railway Sterling Loan Sinking Fund for capital purposes, representations of the Mysore Government in regard to the Imperial customs, etc., formed the subjects of discussion at Simla during my recent visit to that place. The other important questions that engaged the attention of Government during the year are: a scheme for reciprocity in the matter of stoppage of music, as between Hindus and Mahomedans and also between other religious communities, before places of public worship throughout the State; the re-organization of the Mysore Civil Service; further development of the Gold Mining Industry; improvement in the method of obtaining foreign stores and supplies for the various departments of the administration as well as large technical departments like the Railways, Electrical and Public Works; revision of the financial arrangements with the Bank of Mysore; revision of the agency arrangements for the sale of sandal-wood oil in Europe and America; and review of the reports and recommendations of the special committees appointed to consider (1) the Draft Irrigation Bill, (2) Sanskrit Education, (3) Relationship of Inamdars and Tenants, (4) Development of Irrigation under the Vani Vilas Sagara, (5) Revision of the S.S.L.C. Scheme, and (6) Motor transport services in the State.

Representative Institutions

(1) *Representative Assembly.*—There were, as usual, two sessions of the Representative Assembly, one in June and the other in October. In the October Session 330 subjects were discussed and the Assembly was also consulted in regard to certain legislative measures, the most important being the Bill to amend the Mysore Newspapers Regulation. At the last Budget Session of the Assembly 75 general subjects were dealt with, the proposals relating to further constitutional developments being the most important amongst them. In the middle of the session, Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Willingdon paid an informal visit to the Assembly and listened with great interest to the discussions on the subject of the Reforms.

(2) *Legislative Council.*—The term of the Legislative Council would have expired on the 17th February 1923, but was extended by six months by an Emergency Regulation. During the past official year, it met four times and dealt with 21 Bills of which 16 were eventually passed into law. The most important of these related to the amendment of the Income-tax, Court-fees and Stamp Regulations, providing for suits against Government and the amendment of the Mysore Municipal Regulation dealing with the appointment of a Municipal Commissioner. Twelve resolutions were brought forward during the year, of which eight were withdrawn and four accepted by Government with slight modifications.

(3) *Local Self-Government.—Municipalities.*—It is unfortunate that the resources of the municipal bodies which are capable of expansion remained stationary and that besides the normal municipal administration, very few important works were taken up in the several minor and town municipalities. Water-supply schemes for 7 towns were investigated during the year and those for Chikmagalur, Chintamani, and Molkalmuru were under execution. The total amount spent under sanitary improvement works, for which there was a provision of Rs. 20,000 in the budget, was only Rs. 3,560. The total amount spent in the Mysore City for improvements under the Trust Board was Rs. 2,45,962 towards which, Government contributed Rs. 1,66,000. In the Bangalore City a sum of Rs. 2,81,181 was spent on works of improvement, out of which Government contributed Rs. 50,000.

Local Boards.—The most important advance under Local Boards administration was the grant of the privilege of electing a President to the Bangalore District Board and the appointment of non-official gentlemen as Presidents for the District Boards of Kolar and Hassan. All the District Boards continued to have non-official Vice-Presidents. The total revenue and expenditure under District Funds during the year came to Rs. 22,81,436 and Rs. 20,97,756 respectively.

Financial Position

Before dealing with the departmental administration, I should like to make a brief reference to the financial position as disclosed in the preliminary accounts of the last year. I referred in great detail to this subject in my Budget Address to this Assembly last June. It will, therefore, be sufficient if I deal with it only in a general way so as to give some idea of the net results of the past year's administration. Omitting the item of extraordinary revenue of Rs. 16½ lakhs on account of the C. & M. Station surplus, the budget of last year anticipated a deficit of Rs. 21,70,000 and the revised estimates which I placed before the Assembly last June expected a deficit of Rs. 4,33,000. According to the preliminary accounts, the total revenue of the last year omitting the aforesaid extraordinary revenue has come up to Rs. 332·83 lakhs—the highest level reached so far and the total expenditure to Rs. 329·90 lakhs showing a surplus of about Rs. 3 lakhs. This result, I am sure, will appeal to you as satisfactory. The expectations in regard to the revenue have been more than fully realized.

Provision of Funds for Special Requirements.—In 1921-22, it was not possible for want of adequate

resources to pay to the Loan Sinking Funds more than Rs. 12½ lakhs against the total demand of Rs. 13¾ lakhs. This arrear claim of the Sinking Funds together with the interest due on it, has been adjusted in the accounts for 1922-23, out of the extraordinary revenue of Rs. 13¼ lakhs received in that year towards the withheld surpluses of the Civil and Military Station due for the three years commencing from 1918-19. The recent heavy rains have done much damage to roads, buildings, channels and tanks and necessitated heavy repairs. It is necessary to make a special allotment for these unforeseen repair works to be carried out this year, but it is not possible to meet this demand from the limited grant allowed to the Public Works Department. With a view to provide funds for this and other extraordinary requirements of the current year, a sum of Rs. 5½ lakhs has been transferred out of the surplus of last year to the Special Reserve for non-recurring expenditure. The object of this arrangement is to separate the abnormal from the normal demands and finance the former without dislocating the sanctioned budget programme of the year, which contains no margin for new and special items of expenditure.

Budget Prospects of 1923-24.—The actual position only in the first quarter of the current year is now known and it is too early yet to judge what the result is likely to be at the close of the year. The south-west monsoon has been fitful and erratic, and brought in its train adversity and distress, and the present seasonal condition is also causing anxiety. We can only hope for the best. As regards expenditure, I need only state that the necessity to keep it under control continues to be fully realised and retrenchments and economies which are still considered to be feasible, are under the active consideration of Government.

Cash Position.—The revised estimate anticipated a cash balance on, 1st July 1923, of Rs. 82¼ lakhs. The actual balance, however, was Rs. 99½ lakhs, *i.e.*, Rs. 17¼ lakhs better than the forecast. This increase is chiefly due to the improvement in the revenue account position and the lapse of a part of the capital grants.

Assets.—The total assets of the State increased from Rs. 14,99,79,416 on 1st July 1922 to Rs. 15,85,67,000 on 1st July 1923; the fixed assets increased by 57½ lakhs due to additional expenditure on the several capital works. There was an increase of Rs. 43½ lakhs in the balance of Reserve Funds, representing the addition made during the year to the Loan Sinking, Depreciation and other funds.

Revenue Department

Seasonal Conditions.—The actual rainfall was slightly less than the average of the previous ten years.

The total cultivated area showed an increase of about 28,000 acres under ragi while there was a decrease of about 7,000 acres under paddy. The total occupied area which was 7,903,994 acres remained practically the same in spite of large relinquishments in Bangalore, Kolar and Chitaldrug Districts due to insufficient monsoon. As against the total Demand of Rs. 1,29,86,783 under Land Revenue and Revenue Miscellaneous, the total collections amounted to Rs. 1,21,80,754 leaving a balance of Rs. 8,06,029. Both under arrears and current, the

collection work was good. The total number of darkhasts pending in the previous year was 25,418 and the number disposed of during the year was 17,478 showing a balance of nearly 8,000 yet to be disposed of. The separate levy of Irrigation and Supari cess was abolished during the year.

The French-Rocks Sub-Taluk, the Chintamani Sub-Division office and the Maramat Branch of the District offices were abolished during the year resulting in a saving of Rs. 1,24,942 per annum.

Survey and Settlement

The revision settlement was introduced in the taluks of Devanhalli, Sidlaghatta, Bagepalli, Seringapatam (Nala villages), Heggaddevankote, Arkalgud, and Hole-Narsipur and resulted in an increase of Rs. 2,26,669. The resettlement is still overdue in 19 taluks of the State.

Excise

There was a decline, due to reduced consumption and shop rentals, of Rs. 4·75 lakhs in the excise revenue during the year, the total amount realized being Rs. 71·27 lakhs.

The reduction of establishment effected in this department under the general scheme of retrenchments resulted in a saving of Rs. 22,000 per annum.

Forest Department

The total revenue under Forests during the year was Rs. 26·58 lakhs; the expenditure under all heads amounted to Rs. 13·45 lakhs, the corresponding figures for the previous year being Rs. 22·19 and Rs. 11·89 lakhs respectively.

Twenty-three elephants were caught during the year at a cost of Rs. 12,000, fourteen of which were sold for Rs. 25,225.

Income-tax

The total amount of income-tax collected during the year was Rs. 14·05 lakhs as against the budget estimate of Rs. 10 lakhs. Improvements were effected in the administration of income-tax in the cities of Bangalore and Mysore and in the districts.

Stamps

The revenue from stamps during the year was Rs. 17·64 lakhs against Rs. 16 03 lakhs in the previous year, the increase being due mainly to the enhanced rates of fees levied under the Stamp and Court-fee Amendment Regulations which came into force from 1st February 1923.

Registration

The registration income during the year was Rs. 3·10 lakhs as against Rs. 3·15 lakhs of the previous year while the expenditure remained stationary being Rs. 1½ lakhs.

Courts

The total expenditure under Courts was Rs. 10·17 lakhs against Rs. 10·23 lakhs, the actuals of the previous year.

Civil litigation remained almost stationary and there was a decrease in the total number of offences dealt with by criminal courts.

The system of 'trial by jury' in sessions cases was extended to the districts of Tumkur and Kadur with effect from the 1st September 1923. Important circular instructions were issued by the Chief Court for improvement in the disposal of civil cases and other matters affecting the routine of the department.

Police

The cost of the Police Administration during 1922-23 was Rs. 14·97 lakhs as against Rs. 16·23 lakhs in the previous year. A special Emergency Reserve was sanctioned during the year for the districts of Bangalore and Mysore with a corresponding reduction in the strength of the District Reserves in all the districts.

Prisons

The expenditure in the Prisons Department came to Rs. 1·77 lakhs during 1922-23 against Rs. 1·57 lakhs in the previous year.

Medical Department

The total expenditure in the Medical Department during the year 1922-23 was Rs. 9·23 lakhs as against Rs. 10·51 lakhs of the previous year. Some improvement was effected in Female medical aid by transferring female dispensaries to district hospital buildings and thereby increasing their efficiency.

Sanitation and Public Health

This department was abolished as a separate administrative agency as a measure of retrenchment during the year. The vital statistics registered show a slight increase in births and deaths over the figures of the previous year being 104,222 and 90,368, respectively as against 99,276 and 78,995 the corresponding ones of last year. There was a decrease in the number of vaccinations performed. There was increase in the total number of deaths from cholera, small-box and plague in the year.

Military

The total military expenditure, which included the cost of the Kunigal Stud Farm, amounted to Rs. 16·09 lakhs. Substantial retrenchments were effected under various heads during the year by reduction of establishment disposal of surplus stores, horses and bullocks and by keeping two squadrons in the Mysore Horse and one in the Mysore Lancers dismounted.

Amrutmahal Department

This Department has since been transferred from the Chief Commandant, Mysore State Troops, to the Department of Agriculture and placed under the direct supervision of Mr. Davison. Five hundred and thirty-six head of cattle were sold for Rs. 39,565 leaving a balance of 8,736 at the close of the year. As a measure of retrenchment, orders were passed for disbanding 3,728 out of 9,223 head of cattle and of a large extent of the *kavals*

to the Revenue Department for disposal to the raiyats. 20,000 acres of land were actually surrendered during the year, and proposals for the re-organization of the Department and its management under more up-to-date and scientific methods were formulated and considered.

A revenue of Rs. 55,688 was realized during the year against an expenditure of Rs. 35,320, the corresponding figures of the previous year being Rs. 52,791 and Rs. 35,118 respectively.

Moral and Material Progress

University.—The total number of students in the University showed an increase of 38 being 1,088 in all during the year as against 1,050 in the previous year. The Universities of Benares, Lucknow and Dacca recognized the degrees of the Mysore University as equivalent to the corresponding degrees of their Universities, while the Government of Bombay recognized the B.E. degree in Mechanical Engineering for purposes of admission to the Mechanical Engineer's Examination.

The total expenditure of the University in 1922-23 was Rs. 6,65,633 as against Rs. 7,83,566 in the previous year.

Education.—Middle School, Secondary and Primary.—In my opening Address to this Assembly in October last, I stated that substantial progress could not be made even during the year 1922-23 to give effect to the educational reforms sanctioned in the Memorandum orders, mainly for want of funds. An additional grant of one lakh of rupees was however sanctioned in February last for accelerating the conversion of aided schools in the cess paying districts of Bangalore, Chitaldrug and Hassan, for expediting the completion of buildings in progress and constructions of new buildings in the remaining districts for the improvement of equipment of Primary and Training Institutions, and for strengthening the Inspectorate. Orders were also issued for bringing into effect from the present academic year, one of the most important of the reforms sanctioned in the Memorandum orders, *viz.*, the re-modelling of primary and middle school education so as to constitute each of them into a separate four years' course, following the revised curricula approved by Government.

With a view to provide necessary facilities in Bangalore for girls studying for the Entrance Examination, a University Entrance class was opened in the Vani Vilas Institute in Mathematics, Physics and Natural Science with tentative arrangements, for practical work in the laboratory of the Government Collegiate High School. The requirements of the State in regard to High School education were carefully examined by Government and a programme has been laid down for the starting of additional High Schools.

An officer was deputed to inspect and report on the equipment of the High School laboratories with a view to take stock of their present condition and bring them up to the proper standard.

The rules relating to the award of the Backward Class scholarships were modified by grouping together two or more communities of similar social and economic conditions so as that the scholarships lapsing for want of pupils in one community comprised in the group might be awarded to pupils of other communities coming under the same

group. Certain anomalies having been observed in the schemes of scholarships for the Depressed Classes, a revised consolidated scheme was sanctioned providing for the grant of scholarships even in the Infant classes, and for a higher value of scholarship in all the stages than the corresponding Backward Class scholarships. A Boarding Home has been opened in the Bangalore City for Panchama students reading in the High School classes. The concession of admitting pupils belonging to the Depressed Classes to schools without admission and class fees was extended for a further period of three years and the exemption of pupils of these classes from payment of application fees at examinations conducted by the Education Department has also been ordered to be continued till 1927.

In regard to the disposal of the long standing and unutilised contributions from villagers for buildings about which repeated representations have been made in this Assembly, the Government passed detailed orders regarding the manner of their disposal and have also issued instructions regarding the cases to which the receipt of such contributions should in future be restricted.

Among other measures sanctioned during the year may be mentioned the revision of the scheme of free studentships in educational institutions, the transfer of the control of Primary Education in the Bangalore City to the City Municipal Council, the revision of the scale of carts and conductress' allowance of Hindustani Girls' schools and the standardisation of equipment of the several grades of schools. A quinquennium report on the progress of education during the years 1916-22 is under preparation.

I shall now give a few of the important educational statistics. The total number of schools in the year was 8,734 as against 8,601 in the previous year, but the total number of scholars declined from 304,028 to 285,603 owing to the temporary closing of 712 day and night schools and abolition of nearly 250 practical instruction classes which were either totally inefficient or found to be not working. The total strength in the High School classes and the University Entrance Class was 6,630 as against 5,795 in the previous year. The Grant-in-aid rules were revised with effect from 1st July 1922 and the revision resulted in an annual additional expenditure of Rs. 10,991. A sum of Rs. 1,29,580 was spent departmentally on account of school buildings. The total expenditure under Primary and Middle School education during the year was Rs. 21,82,921. The total expenditure on High School education was Rs. 4,79,339. Under equipment and furniture, the total amount spent during the year was Rs. 1,18,946.

The total expenditure on Education last year, excluding that of the University, was Rs. 37,99,000.

Co-operative Societies

There were 1,546 societies working at the close of the year. The membership of the societies increased from 96,912 to 98,821 the share capital from Rs. 35,16,504 to Rs. 36,78,900 and the reserve fund from Rs. 8,10,087 to Rs. 10,62,513. Their total working capital rose from 80 lakhs of rupees to 85 lakhs.

The report of the co-operative committee, appointed in Government Order dated the 13th September 1920, presided over by the Hon'ble Mr. Lallubhai Samaldas Mehta, C.I.E. has been received and is now under the consideration of Government.

Agricultural Department

The Department worked more or less on the existing lines but could not extend its operations owing to financial stringency. In the Bio-Chemistry section, much useful work was done under chemical experiments and investigations in the central laboratory as well as in the farms. 1,200 acres infected with *koleroga* were sprayed in the year as against 750 acres in the previous year. A bulletin on Coffee Black Rot was issued; new remedy for sugar-cane borer was tried with more successful results and investigation against other pests also received continued attention. In the Botanical section, plant breeding was continued in ragi, sugar cane, ground nut and potatoes, castor and fodder grasses. In the Babbur Farm hybridization work in cotton and seeds selection was carried on.

In the Engineering section, the department was interested in the introduction of a new plough which, after extended trials, is now ready for sale to the raiyats. In the Education section, the Hebbal School gave diplomas to 13 students. The Implements Depot sold goods to the extent of Rs. 35,896. In the live-stock section, experiments were conducted in improved breeding through Holstein bulls and 7 Merino rams were imported during the year. Work in connection with sheep-husbandry was continued in the Kolar District and a Sheep-breeding Association was also formed. A good deal of work under seed distribution was undertaken both under ragi, paddy and ground-nuts. In the Civil Veterinary Department, which is also under the control of the Director of Agriculture, there was an increase in the number of cases treated in Veterinary hospitals and 97,000 inoculations were conducted. In the Sericultural Department, 240,000 layings of disease-free eggs were distributed to the raiyats in the district. The silk filature, Mysore, was operated upon throughout the year, and produced fine reeled silk which found a ready market in Europe.

Industries and Commerce Department

The Department of Industries and Commerce was reorganized in January 1923 and the control of industrial education was transferred to this department from that date. Owing to shortage of funds and restricted grants for experiments and new activities, the department carried on its operations on the existing basis devoting its attention to the Soap Factory, the Central Industrial Workshop, the Weaving Factory, the Arts and Crafts Institute, the District Workshops, the management of the Takavi Loan scheme and supplying information and providing facilities for merchants for the development of private concerns. Thirty-two new concerns for carrying on small industries each involving an aggregate capital expenditure of Rs. 50,000 were started during the year. The Soap Factory earned a net profit of Rs. 25,654 during the year. The value of work turned out by the Industrial Workshop during the year amounted to Rs. 1,20,000 and that by the Art Workshop to Rs. 90,750. Loans to the extent of Rs. 96,532

were granted during the year for industrial purposes. The department carried on experiments in the direction of preparation of lac products, testing new varieties of timber for artware, manufacture of sugar-cane mills with the pig iron produced in the Bhadravati Iron Works, utilization of Mysore silk reeled at the filature of the Sericultural Department and the improvement of jaggory manufacture process. The department also investigated into the possibility of match industry in the State and reported upon an application for certain concessions. The scheme has now been worked out and Government have passed orders granting certain concessions for the establishment of the match industry in the State.

Geology and Mining

On the recommendation of the Board of Industries and Commerce, the reservation of the minerals and mineral areas ordered in 1920 was withdrawn so that private enterprise might come forward again to exploit the mineral wealth of the State, reserving only those essential minerals required by the State for "key industries" for the future development of industries.

There were 40 mining leases, 48 prospecting leases and 48 exploring licenses issued during the year. The total quantity of bar gold produced was 423,348 ounces valued at Rs. 2,58,63,000 as compared with 420,857 ounces valued at Rs. 2,83,55,893 in the previous year. The amount of royalty paid to Government was Rs. 14,16,441 as against Rs. 15,79,913.

Public Works Department

The recent re-organization of the Public Works Department bifurcated it into two separate branches, *viz.*, Roads and Buildings and Irrigation, with effect from September 1922.

(1) *Roads and Buildings.*—The total expenditure under Roads and Buildings, excluding local funds and contributions amounted to Rs. 19·36 lakhs against the budget grant of Rs. 19·22 lakhs. The year's operations consisted mainly in attending to incomplete works and the normal maintenance of roads and buildings. The condition of roads improved generally.

(2) *Irrigation.*—The total expenditure on irrigation works amounted to Rs. 6·19 lakhs against a grant of Rs. 5·57 lakhs. The budget grants both under Roads and Buildings as well as under Irrigation were the lowest on record during the past nine years owing to financial stringency. Through the Irrigation branch of the Public Works Department, water-supply to Molakalmuru, Chikmagalur, Chintamani and Bhadravati towns and improvements to the water-supply of Mysore and a few other works were carried out at a cost of Rs. 7,33,449. The Bhadra Anicut works showed good progress. Minor tank restoration work was transferred to this department in October 1922 and the new scheme is in full working order.

Capital Works

Krishnarajasagara

The grant for capital expenditure under the Krishnarajasagara Dam and allied works during the year was

Rs. 6·45 lakhs against which, an outlay of Rs. 7·47 lakhs was incurred. The area irrigated under the new channels in the year under review was 16,800 acres against 15,000 acres in the previous year.

The total expenditure on the Krishnarajasagara works till the close of the year 1922-23 was Rs. 211 lakhs, which includes a sum of Rs. 24·87 lakhs as land compensation. A definite programme of works to complete the scheme in all its essentials and provide for all the necessary safeguards and developments, stage by stage, has been formulated and is now under the consideration of Government.

Electrical Department

The gross earnings of the electrical Department during the year came to Rs. 41,73,443 as against Rs. 37,93,254 in the year previous. The working expenses including depreciation stood at Rs. 12,98,587 as against Rs. 12,75,026 in the previous year, showing a net revenue of Rs. 28,74,856, being an advance over the previous year's figure by Rs. 3,56,628.

The Electrical side of the Krishnarajasagara project had two objects in view, *viz.*, (1) assuring a continuous supply of water for the generation of electricity and (2) augmenting the amount of water for the production of more power, mostly to meet the demand of the Kolar Gold Mines. The large quantity of water impounded in the Reservior has fulfilled both these objects although the irrigation side of the project has yet to be developed. The construction of the Reservoir was commenced in the year 1911-12 in which year the net revenue of the Cauvery Power Scheme was Rs. 10½ lakhs. The corresponding revenue realised in the year under review was Rs. 28¾ lakhs. The two projects—the Cauvery Power Scheme and the Krishnarajasagara—are intimately associated with one another, and the only correct method of ascertaining their paying character is to treat them as one combined scheme. The total capital outlay on the combined scheme to the end of last year was Rs. 391½ lakhs. The total net revenue realised in the last year on this investment amounted to Rs. 28¼ lakhs and the rate of return in that year was, therefore 7·2 per cent.

Railway Department

The total mileage of railways worked by the State stands at 402. The Iron Works tramways covering a length of 47·40 miles have been transferred to the Board of Management of the Bhadravati Iron Works with effect from the 1st July 1923. The gross earnings of the railways and tramways worked by the State came to Rs. 30,83,820 and the working expenses to Rs. 27,05,858, bringing in a net earning of Rs. 3,77,962. The working expenses included a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs on account of the renewal of permanent way for 12 miles on the Bangalore-Mysore section.

The gross earnings of the State lines worked by the M. & S. M. Railway Company were Rs. 43,80,000 and working expenses Rs. 27,80,000 giving a net revenue of Rs. 16 lakhs. After deducting the guaranteed interest and the share of profits payable to the Company, the actual net revenue to Government came to Rs. 8⅓ lakhs.

Intermediate class accommodation was introduced in the Mail and Express trains between Bangalore and Mysore from the 15th February 1923. The rates of passenger fares, increased from May 1922, were reduced again in February 1923.

The Iron Scheme

The construction of the plant was, for the most part, completed by December 1922 and the blast furnance started working from 18th January 1923. The chemical House came into operation two months later.

The daily output of pig iron showed a steady increase from month to month and stood at an average of 40 tons in June 1923. Although this output was considerably short of the rated capacity of the blast furnace the operations were progressing favourably till the 10th of July when, owing to exceptionally heavy rains and unusually high floods in the river, one of the pump houses was partly submerged, the charging tunnel of the blast furnace was flooded and the plant had to be temporarily shut down. The furnace was then relined and the operations resumed after an interval of seven weeks.

The total capital outlay on all the works booked till the end of last was Rs. 1,78,59,975 exclusive of expenditure on the collection of fuel and other materials required for operation. The total expenditure on revenue account during the year was Rs. 7,82,000. The value of the products manufactured was a little over Rs. 5 lakhs. The net loss for the half year amounted to Rs. 2,79,000. A great part of this represented the preliminary expenses incidental to starting a new industry with untried materials and untrained labour.

The new Board of Management came into existence in April 1923. The three departments, *viz.*, Forest, Mining and Tramways, which were directly under Government, were transferred to the supervision of the Board. All the works are now under a unified control. The latest report from the works shows that the damage caused by the floods has been repaired, and working costs have been considerably reduced. Products of the value of about Rs. 3½ lakhs have been sold up-to-date. It is hoped that the concern may soon become self-supporting and show a progressive improvement in its commercial results.

Special Questions under Active Consideration

In my concluding speech at the Budget Debate before the Legislative Council in June 1922, I indicated a programme of work, concentrating the attention of Government on twelve large and urgent questions, subject to the limitations of our financial position. You may be interested to know the progress that has been made in regard to at least some of these matters during the past year now under review.

I. Restoration of Financial Stability

The essential factors which ensure complete financial stability are :—

(*i*) Balanced Revenue Budgets ;

(*ii*) Provision of funds for continuous development operations according to the declared policy of Government in the past ;

(*iii*) Maintenance of adequate reserves for meeting all liabilities that should reasonably be anticipated.

(*i*) We have drawn up a triennial programme of financial re-habilitation; we have classified our revenue resources and the demands upon them accordingly; and we are attempting to stabilise the finances of the ordinary administration by keeping the general service expenditure within normal revenues and permitting the growth of new expenditure only when there is a corresponding growth in normal revenue. The result so far achieved in this direction has already been explained in the section giving particulars of the financial position at the close of the last official year which ended with a small surplus of Rs. 2,93,000, in spite of a deficit budget. It has been possible by drastic retrenchments in expenditure as well as by taking all suitable measures for the expansion of revenue under the Major heads to produce a balanced budget for the current year.

(*ii*) We have effected a substantial curtailment in the annual standard of capital expenditure and, although the future position is not free from anxiety, having regard to all the demands under the various capital works in progress, we have avoided borrowing in the current year. A sum of Rs. 47·67 lakhs has been provided in the budget for the Capital Works which will be met from our improved cash position due to rigid application of the financial policy which was adopted last year. Special efforts are being made to make the position under Capital Finance more secure by obtaining the consent of the Secretary of State to the utilization of the Sterling Railway Loan Sinking Fund for capital purposes in future.

(*iii*) Although we have not been able to contribute to the Famine Reserve, we have taken definite steps to keep the existing fund in the form of easily realizable securities and we have also ensured to the fund the continuity of the income earned by it in the form of interest on the securities held in its behalf. Under Debt Redemption, we have been able to set aside from the current revenues the contribution required for building up the Sinking Funds for all our terminable loans. We have, out of our surplus for 1922-23, paid to these funds the arrears of the previous year in which we could not afford to make the full contribution. The other class of reserves necessary for stability are the Banking Reserves under which come Depreciation Funds, Savings Bank withdrawals, Demands of other Liability Funds like the Local Funds, Insurance Funds and Provident Funds. The Depreciation Funds in the past were absorbed in the general resources and utilized for general purposes, with the result that ready money was not available for carrying out Depreciation works. This defect has now been removed. We have arranged to set aside immediately a reserve equivalent to 20 per cent of the Savings Bank liabilities. This will as soon as possible, be raised to the limit of 50 per cent. We have also arranged to meet the liabilities on account of other funds by keeping adequate reserves in the form of readily marketable securities. The policy indicated in the manner described above will, I have every hope, restore completely our financial stability in the course of the next two or three years.

II. Constitutional Reforms

This subject has already been dealt with in a previous portion of my Address and I hope to have the privilege of promulgating His Highness' orders on the last day of the session.

III Recruitment

It was in May 1921 that the order on the Miller Committee's Report was passed, laying down that till the proportion of the members of the backward Communities in the various branches of the Public Service is raised to 50 per cent of the total strength, preferential treatment may be accorded to the candidates of those communities in making initial appointments. Government reviewed the progress made by the Central Recruitment Board in increasing the representation of the backward Communities in the Public Service, on the quarterly statements as furnished by them, from which it is seen that out of a total of 700 appointments, only 206 were given to members of Backward Communities.

It has to be stated that owing to large retrenchments [redacted] in the several departments, the scope for making [redacted] appointments was limited and consequently the progress made in increasing the representation of the members of the Backward Communities has been slow. It is, however, found that the 50% limit has already been reached in the Medical Department and the executive branch of the Police. Eight probationers for direct recruitment to the Amildari service have been appointed recently, of whom 6 are members of the Backward Communities. The list of men eligible for the Amildari service has been revised by including the names of members of the Backward Communities serving in departments other than the Revenue, who have passed all the prescribed tests. Of the 17 appointments made to the Amildari and the Deputy Amildari services since 1922, 10 have been given to members of the Backward Communities. Recently, in filling up the vacancies caused by the extension of the judicial separation scheme in Kolar, two of the appointments have been given to members of the Backward Communities by direct recruitment. Government consider that the progress so far achieved, taking into account the limitations under which the administration was placed, is fairly satisfactory. There is yet much headway to be made, however, in this direction, and Government look to the co-operation of the Heads of Departments in giving full effect to the policy that has already been laid down.

IV. Educational Reforms

In the section dealing with Education, I have already dealt with this subject. The matter is receiving the continued attention of Government. Further developments in the University are also under active consideration. But all these matters have to be governed by our general financial policy.

V. Improvement of District Administration

The extensive tours that were made by me during the year in six districts out of eight, had, as one of their chief objects, the improvement of district Administration.

The detailed knowledge thus acquired of the existing methods of work in the district offices and of the defects noticed, has made it possible to formulate certain definite proposals for the improvement of district administration. One of these proposals relates to the simplification of the office procedure and reduction of correspondence. There is also under consideration at present, a scheme for greater concentration of authority and supervision over district administration in general. Under decentralization of powers, a comprehensive Government Order was issued early in the year, giving larger powers to the Revenue Commissioner, and further decentralization can be worked out only after some experience is gained of the working of the present scheme. It cannot be denied that district administration requires urgent reform in many directions, and as all the information which will enable Government to take adequate measures in the matter is now available, it is hoped that within the current year, suitable and adequate steps will be taken to bring about the desired improvement.

VI. Improvement of the Malnad

The Malnad Improvement Scheme was practically suspended in June 1921 owing to the reduction of the grant in the budget of 1921-22 to Rs. 51,000. The ordinary agencies attended to the maintenance of Malnad hospitals, and with the exception of a few drinking water wells, etc., no extension of the scheme was possible owing to financial stringency. Last year the total expenditure under Malnad Improvement came to Rs. 54,462, out of which nearly Rs. 37,000 went towards the establishment charges of dispensaries, vaccinators, midwives, etc. In the current year, an enhanced grant of Rs. 76,000 has been made in the budget for Malnad Improvement. In reply to the Address of the Malnad Landholders' Association at Agumbe, last January, I dealt with the Malnad problems in general and several of the local wants in particular. I also reviewed the progress made in the Malnad Improvement Scheme since its inauguration in 1914 and pointed out that a total expenditure of nearly Rs. 9 lakhs had been incurred by the State till the end of June 1922, of which Rs. 3 lakhs were spent on drinking water wells and Rs. 1·12 lakhs on supplementary medical relief. I said:—

"I am not ready at the present moment, to indicate to you the general lines on which a policy of reconstruction in the Malnad will be framed by Government. But I can assure you that the subject will be continuously studied and investigated and I have every hope that, with the experience of the past as well as the local knowledge which I hope to gain during this tour, I may be able to formulate a comprehensive scheme which, while not overlooking the main lines of advance already indicated by Government in the past, will chalk out a programme that will touch not merely the fringe of the problems involved but will also help to build up a vigorous and healthy population freed from the evils of the present unsatisfactory environment and general low economic condition."

In accordance with this announcement, I am able to state now that the Government are closely investigating into the whole question and hope to shortly issue a resolution indicating the lines of further advance for the improvement of the Malnad.

VII. Improvement of Major and Minor Tanks

The total number of Major tanks in the State is 2,566. Out of these 700 have yet to be restored, and the estimated cost is about Rs. 50 lakhs. It is evident that this expenditure will have to be spread over a number of years. Besides, the system of enforcing proper repairs and maintenance works of these tanks has to be carefully examined. The whole question is now under the consideration of Government and action similar to the one taken for the restoration of Minor tanks will be taken in the near future.

The Minor Tank Restoration Scheme, in respect of which I published a paper in 1919 giving its past history, has now received full consideration at the hands of this Assembly as well as the Legislative Council with the result that an Amendment Regulation has been passed and has come into force from the 13th September last. The current year's grant is Rs. 1 lakh and a definite programme for each division to spend this grant profitably has been framed. Government hope that under the new compulsory system of reduced contribution, all impediments to [redacted] which have been experienced in the past will [redacted] and the restoration work will make satisfactory [redacted] to all the districts with a substantially larger grant in future years.

VIII. Development of the Local Self-Government Scheme

In regard to this matter, I need add but little to what I have stated already on the subject. Further development must proceed generally on the lines recommended by the last Local Self-Government Conference. We have now appointed a special officer to work up further details. Attention of the members of this Assembly is invited to the order recently issued appointing Mr. V. R. Thyagaraja Iyer, late Superintendent of Census, to this work.

IX. Improvement of Railway Administration

Several measures were taken during the last year to improve the Railway administration. With a view to keep down the working expenses, establishments have been reduced to the extent of Rs. 57,858. With a view to fix audit responsibilities, the Departmental officers have been made responsible individually and have been given the necessary account facilities. Concurrent audit of expenditure has been introduced in the Loco and Carriage Department. Considerable additions have been made to the stock of locomotives and passenger coaches and heavy renewal work is being undertaken to bring everything up to the standard. Earnest endeavours are being made, even at the sacrifice of net revenue under Railways, to undertake the urgent portion of the heavy renewal work of the permanent way, which has been in arrears for many years past. Strict control is being exercised over the Traffic Department and every effort is being made to increase the goods traffic. Government have recently passed orders for the selection of a Mysorean for training abroad in Railway administration. Intermediate class accommodation has been introduced and the railway fares have beed reduced. Improved arrangements have been made for the purchase of stores and materials.

Recently, the *Times of India* published certain information regarding the Mysore Railway policy, referring also in this connection to my recent visit to Simla to discuss the matter with the Government of India, and I take this opportunity of contradicting the entirely misleading version that has been given in that paper. The writer said that the Railway policy of the Mysore Durbar had been decided by the Government of India, that the Bhatkal Harbour project and the other railway lines which are under contemplation will be abandoned and that Mysore will have to adjust herself to the Railway policy suggested by the Government of India. I wish to say that this information is absolutely incorrect. The Mysore Government have not abandoned the Bhatkal Harbour project and when funds are available, the Shimoga-Arasalu line will be the first project to be resumed with a view to extend it further to the West Coast.

X. Improvement of Communications

The organization of a separate branch of the Public Works Administration under Roads and Buildings has, as experience of the past year shows, been a move in the right direction. A pre-arranged programme of work is now insisted upon. After a detailed investigation of local conditions, revised circular orders are under issue for road works in general both under annual and special repairs. Strong disciplinary measures are being taken against bad work and inefficient supervision. A revised Road Manual is under preparation. A committee is being formed in accordance with the recommendations of the Local Self-Government Conference to go into the questions of transferring District Fund roads to the District Boards under their own Engineering staff.

XI. Medical Aid, Public Health and Village and Town Improvements

I regret to say that very little advance has been made in these directions. The committee appointed in 1919 made exhaustive recommendations which were generally approved by Government, but owing to financial stringency, progress has been slow. Three new dispensaries have been opened during the past year—two in Hassan and one in the Mysore District. Three other new dispensaries are also proposed to be opened during the current year. In working out the scheme for further development of Local Self-Government, which is now under consideration, Government propose to introduce an effective system of grants which, supplemented by local, municipal and district funds, may be devoted towards improvement of public health and sanitation, specially in the rural parts of the State. A scheme for research and investigation into the low physical condition of the Malnad population is under consideration.

XII. Economic Development and Food Production

The budget grant for the last year under Economic Development work was limited to Rs. 50,000, out of which, Rs. 24,000 represented the contribution to the District Boards and Rs. 10,000 for economic experiments.

The organization for economic development work has been temporarily suspended from 1st July 1923 and very

little progress can be expected till it is resuscitated with renewed vigour with effect from the 1st January next.

Certain measures have been taken for the improvement of agricultural production during the past year. Provision for seeds, manure and implements for sale to cultivators has been considerably raised and additional facilities have been provided for the distribution of improved ploughs to the raiyats on an extensive scale. Large areas of Amrutmahal Kaval lands have been released for cultivation and large grants of land have been made at concession rates to the landless classes and the Panchamas. The disposal of darkhasts received prompt attention during the year, and was the largest on record.

The progress made in respect of these questions is, it must be confessed, slow; but when the general limitation imposed on the administration by the financial policy of the year is considered, I hope it will not be regarded as altogether disappointing.

Important Events of Current Interest

I take this opportunity of making a passing reference to some of the important events of current interest.

Floods in the Malnad.—On receipt of the heavy rainfall reports in July last, I issued a circular D.O. letter to the Deputy Commissioners of Shimoga, Hassan and Kadur Districts to report immediately if any damage or loss of property or life and also damages to communications and bridges had taken place in these districts. Reports received indicated that there was heavy rainfall between the 8th and 16th July, in fact quite unprecedented as compared with the averages and the actuals of previous years. There was a very heavy second burst of monsoon on the 6th and 7th of August. Detailed reports were received from all the affected parts and the Government reviewed the position in their order dated 16th August. In issuing detailed instructions, they placed a sum of Rs. 5,500 at the disposal of the District Officers for distributing relief, and directed the submission of a complete list of damages that had taken place and the cost of necessary repair works. All interruption to traffic was ordered to be immediately restored and the Engineering Department was directed to send complete information as regards roads, bridges and buildings as well as Major and Minor tanks that were breached. To this order was appended detailed information received from the District Officers as well as a comprehensive note giving all the available information up-to-date.

The measures of relief that have been sanctioned include the grant on a liberal scale of takavi loans, free grant of money for the re-construction of houses, free distribution of timber and bamboos for the same purpose, and the remission of assessment during *Jamabandi* in the case of garden and wet lands seriously damaged by the floods. Looking into the detailed estimates received, it is calculated that Government will have to spend about Rs. 50,000 for immediate repairs to tanks and a lakh of rupees for prompt restoration of roads and bridges besides a sum of Rs. 50,000 to repair the damages owing to abnormal discharge through the river gap of the Krishnarajasagara Dam. All the works have been ordered to be started forthwith with instructions to complete them as early as possible.

I am glad to be able to recognise, in this connection, the resourcefulness shown by the people during these floods and the sympathy and the promptitude with which the local officers acted. A gratifying feature was that the local bodies like the Municipalities, Taluk Boards and the Co-operative Societies readily came to the rescue of the sufferers with offers of gratuitous relief. I take this opportunity of thanking the Municipalities of Tirthahalli, Shimoga and Sringeri and the Co-operative Society of Sringeri for the prompt distribution of relief to the distressed poor in their respective localities. Individual cases of bravery and heroism have also come to the notice of Government in many places and these are being investigated for suitable recognition. I wish to convey the sympathy of Government to those who have suffered loss of property and other inconveniences owing to these floods and to assure them that every possible effort will be made to minimise the hardships caused, by a liberal application of the relief measures sanctioned.

Drought in parts of Kolar and Tumkur Districts.—With these heavy floods on one side of the State, there was unfortunately on the other side, *viz.*, on the border taluks of Kolar and Tumkur Districts, a serious drought. To meet the situation in these parts, Government directed the immediate opening of depots for the sale of fodder at concession rates, and a large quantity of hay has latterly been distributed. Relief works have been started for the labouring classes and takavi loans sanctioned for the purchase of cattle, seed, etc., besides advances to meet the raiyats' contribution towards maintenance of Minor tanks. The situation in the Kolar District has apparently improved, but in the Maddagiri Taluk of the Tumkur District, it is very unsatisfactory. An additional 50 tons of fodder have recently been supplied to this tract. A sum of Rs. 10,000 has just recently been sanctioned to start relief works to afford livelihood to the poor agricultural labourers.

Re-settlements.—The recent re-settlement of the Seringapatam Taluk has given rise to a certain amount of misapprehension. It is a matter of common knowledge that we are very much behind-hand in re-settlement work and it is true that we are expediting it.

I hope you will agree that Government are justified in pushing on these overdue re-settlements, as in some instances, owing to the delay of five to ten years, the State has already lost considerable revenue. There need, however, be no apprehension that in introducing these re-settlements, the Government will in any way be unduly influenced by considerations of the present financial stringency.

As regards the Seringapatam Taluk re-settlement, the principles adopted are, so far as I am aware, not different from those followed elsewhere, but this is a matter which is now under investigation. Representations that have been and are being received from the raiyats of this tract, will be most carefully gone into before the rates are finally confirmed, as promised by me at the last meeting of the Legislative Council.

Press Legislation:—You will recollect that the subject of the Press Law in Mysore came up before this Assembly at the last Dasara Session, when a tentative draft Bill was placed before the assembly for an expression of its

opinion. The main features of the draft Bill were, that the provision now existing in the Newspapers Regulation requiring previous permission of Government to edit, print or publish a paper was to be dispensed with, that the nature of the matter the publication of which would render the paper liable to suspension was categorically defined, that action was to be taken against a newspaper only after judicial enquiry, and that any order passed after such enquiry was subject to appeal to the Chief Court. The general sense of the House was, however, not in favour of the Bill, and I intimated that Government did not wish to press that measure. I added that the question as to what modified form of legislation should be adopted, with a view to retain some control over the Press without in any way stifling legitimate criticism or preventing the growth of healthy journalism, would, as suggested by some of the members of the Assembly, be referred to a Special Committee. The Government accordingly appointed a Committee presided over by the First Member of Council and consisting of two official and five non-official members, besides the Government Advocate. The Committee met eight times and, after mature deliberation and discussion of all the aspects of the question, have now submitted a unanimous report together with two draft Bills which they recommend for adoption. The first of these is for the amendment of the Press and Registration of Books Act, XXV of 1867, on the lines of the amendments recently adopted in British India. The second Bill is intended to replace the existing Newspapers Regulation. Its main features are (i) that previous permission of Government to edit, print or publish newspapers will not be required; (ii) that Government may prohibit the publication of a newspaper in cases where the editor, printer or publisher is convicted of the offence of sedition or of promoting enmity between classes, under Section 124A or 153A of the Indian Penal Code; (iii) that Government will have the same power if a paper habitually publishes matters punishable under these two sections or under Section 500 of the Indian Penal Code relating to defamation; (iv) that in such cases, an appeal against the order of Government will lie to a special Bench of the Chief Court; and (v) that provisions have been also inserted as in the recent British Indian Act for the confiscation of printed matter which is seditious.

These Bills will be placed before the Assembly during the current session for an expression of its opinion as to the general principles involved.

The British Empire Exhibition.—You are doubtless aware of the preparations on foot to hold an Exhibition next year in London, of the resources of all parts of the British Empire. His Highness' Government have decided to participate in the Exhibition in a manner befitting the importance of the State and its varied resources and have allotted a sum of Rs. 50,000 for the collection and preparation of exhibits. There will be a special Mysore Court, with a floor space of about 1,200 sq. ft. which occupies a prominent position in the Indian Pavilion. Action has already been taken to make a representative collection of the resources of the State in raw materials and of local manufactures and art works. Advances have been made to local artisans who have undertaken to prepare special

artware that would show their skill. The response from the large manufacturing concerns in the State and the several departments of Government has so far been very encouraging. The Government have decided that no charge shall be made on account of rent or for the transport of the exhibits sent by private exhibitors from the State through the Department of Industries and Commerce. It is under contemplation to place the collection of the exhibits on view about the end of November next at Bangalore before they are despatched. Mr. S. G. Sastry, M.Sc., Industrial Chemist of the Department of Industries and Commerce, will be the officer deputed to England to be in charge of the exhibits and he will render every assistance to intending exhibitors. The Government are also prepared to give liberal concessions to two selected merchants or business men who will be deputed to visit the Exhibition.

Training of Mysoreans abroad.—For a long time past, the Mysore Government have followed a system of sending out qualified young Mysoreans to foreign countries for higher scientific and general study and for obtaining training in technical subjects of a kind not available in this country. These young men, after completing their training, return imbued with the progressive spirit of the west and epuipped with a first-hand knowledge of modern methods. Since 1891, as many as eighty students have been thus sent out, some by way of departmental deputation, some with free scholarships and others on loan scholarships. The subjects of study include Medicine and Sanitation, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Agriculture and Agricultural Chemistry, Forestry and Forest Chemistry, Geology, Mining and Metallurgy, Printing, Commerce, Banking and Co-operative Credit, Educational Organization, etc. Of those sent out, fifteen are still abroad. Of those who returned after completing their training, 53 have been employed in the several departments of Government. During the current year, the Government propose to award two scholarships, one for qualifying for the Railway Department, (Loco., Carriage or Traffic) and the other, for obtaining training for the opening of technological courses in connection with the University.

It will thus be seen that the Government have been following a steady and consistent policy of training up the best local talent for the industrial and commercial development of the country, and for employment in the highest posts in the technical and scientific departments of the administration. Progress in this direction, however, must necessarily be slow in certain departments and this accounts for the restricted importation of experts or specially qualified men to fill up a few technical appointments which have formed the subject of interpellations in this House and in the Legislative Council. If assurance is needed at all, it may be definitely given that no relaxation of the avowed policy of Government in this matter will take place and that the recruitment of outsiders in exceptional cases will cease when, and as soon as, trained local men are available.

A Stores Purchase Committee

The question of improving the system of obtaining stores and materials for the Railways, Electrical and other

departments, engaged the attention of Government during the year and as a result, the formation of a Stores Purchase Committee has just recently been sanctioned, consisting of the Heads of Important Departments and 3 non-officials, to advise and regulate all stores purchase transactions in future.

Future Programme of Work

As regards the future, I have not much to say. There must be continuity of policy in regard to various activities launched in the past and these must be pursued with perseverance and sustained effort. But the present financial condition leaves little or no scope for exploring new fields of enterprise or for embarking on fresh schemes or ventures specially as we have to contribute over half a crore of rupees of our general revenues every year towards interest and sinking fund charges due on our public debt. Government have still to concentrate attention, firstly, on further improvement of their finances, secondly, on the development of the larger schemes of productive works already embarked upon, under a steady and safe programme of expenditure which will not dislocate the financial equilibrium now secured, but which will nevertheless promise an early return on the capital investment thereon, and thirdly, on the maintenance of a high standard of efficiency in all branches of the administration. This, I confess, is not a very attractive programme. True statesmanship imperatively demands that we should proceed cautiously, keeping, at the same time our eyes open for opportunities to expand and develop in all possible directions. As far as I could survey the possibilities of the immediate future, I may indicate a few of them. The Mysore University has to be equipped with an efficient and contented staff of workers and due provision has also to be made for its development as a modern and up-to-date Institution. Irrigation works must be multiplied and those which increase agricultural wealth and the prosperity of the country must be taken up one by one, out of a substantial Irrigation Reserve Fund to be built up. The Anjanapur Irrigation Project which is one of such schemes and is expected to yield a return of 7 per cent on the capital outlay, may be taken up to bring relief to a most precarious tract in the Shikarpur Taluk of the Shimoga District. The Malnad should be given, as early as possible, a direct outlet to the West Coast. It has to be provided with special facilities for education, medical aid, and sanitary improvements both in towns and villages probably under a special agency. All important municipal towns should be given modern water-supply schemes and more grants should be allotted for the improvement of inter-taluk communications and construction of bridges without which, traffic is interrupted in many places. Public health and sanitation require special attention in rural parts of the State. A few of the larger industries such as paper pulp and sugar may be developed. Under Administration, the re-organization of the Excise and Registration Departments and of the Amildari service, and the strengthening of the Public Health Department deserve sympathetic consideration. Female medical aid has to be largely extended in the rural parts under a suitable organization set up for the purpose. All these come under one or other of the twelve questions already

mentioned as deserving of continuous study, and we should, for the present, keep these very desirable and beneficial schemes in view so that they may be actively pursued when money is available. There is good reason to entertain the hope, in which I trust you share, that we have turned the corner and that the time is not far distant when it will be possible to make an advance at least in some of the directions here indicated and thus to maintain unbroken, the record of the past two decades for progress and enlightenment which the rule of His Highness the Maharaja has justly earned.

Conclusion

During the past year, the State has made earnest efforts to emerge from the clouds of financial depression, and the present financial year which commenced with brighter prospects of a balanced budget and a partial recovery from a position of recurring deficits, met a set-back in the very first quarter owing to unprecedented floods and scarcity—both extreme evils of a fitful and erratic monsoon. There is no cloud, however, without its silver lining. Amidst depressing conditions, the Mysore public servants as a body have shown a worthy spirit of loyal co-operation but for which, it would have been impossible to give the account I have presented before you to-day. The representatives of the people, both in the Legislative Council and in this House have, on their part, given the fullest support to the financial policy of Government, and the public at large have shown praiseworthy forbearance amidst many disappointments. We are on the eve of great and momentous changes. Europe is busy on reconstruction and the great Imperial Economic Conference is now sitting in London to set the economic interests of the Empire in order. We in Mysore have our own problems of reconstruction. The present is a time for settling up differences, for patience, sacrifice and unity of purpose. Not caring for the plaudits of the market-place or the forum, we the public servants of the State will shoulder our heavy responsibilities under the new order of things, with a cheerful optimism and larger outlook, looking to His Highness the Maharaja always for inspiration and guidance, and if we succeed in bringing forth the best efforts of the people to share with us the burdens and responsibilities of administration, we shall then have earned the sympathy, gratitude and good-will of the Larger Mysore, not only of the present but of the future generations.

His Excellency the Viceroy's Visit

Before closing this Address, it is my pleasing duty to announce to you, formally, that next month His Highness will have the privilege of welcoming to our State, His Excellency the Earl of Reading, Viceroy and Governor-General of India, and Her Excellency the Countess of Reading. The news has been hailed with joy in all parts of the State. I have no doubt that His Highness' illustrious guest will be received with the loyalty and respect that are due to the representative of His Most Gracious Majesty the King Emperor.

A. R. BANERJI,
Dewan of Mysore.